

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend Claim 1 as follows, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits:

1. (Currently Amended): A method for generating and displaying a channel map for a network, the method comprising the steps of:

retrieving channel data for a plurality of nodes in the network;  
generating a graphical image of the channel map graphically illustrating at least one band and at least one channel of the at least one band and representing a first node and a second node of the plurality of nodes in the network from the retrieved channel data, the graphical image showing a relationship of a band and channel in the first node to a band and channel in the second node; and  
displaying the graphical image of the channel map,  
wherein the graphical image comprises labels for the bands and channels at each node,  
wherein the channel data include information regarding bands and channels utilized in the network, and  
wherein the network utilizes a plurality of bands and each band has a plurality of channels.

2. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining nodes in the network, wherein the step of retrieving channel map data is performed for each node determined to be in the network.

3. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
receiving an input requesting information about a channel;  
generating a second image of requested information; and  
displaying the second image with the generated image.

4. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 3, wherein  
the step of generating comprises creating a list of channel data, and

the step of displaying comprises creating a window over the graphical image of the channel map and showing the list in the window.

5. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 4, wherein the list of channel data also includes at least one of a side, circuit pack type, role and access type.
6. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 3, wherein the step of generating comprises producing a popup menu of supported operations including one from a group of get additional information, generate reports or transition to other channel map images.
7. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing retrieved channel data for the plurality of nodes in storage at the element management system.
8. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
  - receiving an input requesting a report;
  - generating an image of the channel map in HTML format; and
  - opening a browser window and displaying the generated image in the window.
9. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
  - receiving an input requesting a report;
  - generating an image of the channel map in a printer file; and
  - sending the printer file to a printer.
10. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
  - receiving an input requesting an export of a channel map;
  - creating a file with the channel map data; and
  - storing the created file.
11. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of retrieving channel data comprises the steps of:
  - retrieving optical band channel assignments;

retrieving sub-rate information;  
retrieving data on provisioned circuits; and  
retrieving data on sub rate circuits.

12. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of updating the channel map data and displaying an updated version of the channel map.

13. (Original): The method of claim 12, wherein the step of updating the channel map data and displaying an updated version of the channel map is responsive to one from the group of: user input, passage of time or an event being sent from an administrative complex of a node to the element management system.

14. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the graphical image of the channel map is a window having first, second and third columns, the first column provides labels for the bands and channels on a first direction to/from the first node, the third column provides labels for the bands and channels on a second direction to/from the second node, and the second column is positioned between the first and third columns and depicts channel and band allocation information.

15. (Original): The method of claim 14, wherein the second column has a plurality of cells with left and right portions for displaying west and east side information for the node and lines in the cells correspond to connections made by the node, and wherein rows in the first and third columns are labeled with a unique channel identifier that includes a row and channel designation.

16. (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein the rows are grouped in bands and each band is marked by visually distinct delineation.

17. (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein the graphical image of the channel map further comprises a legend positioned proximate the first, second and third columns in a split pane, the legend displays icons that may be placed in the cells of the second column and associated text descriptions.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein the icons in the legend include one from the group of:

icons indicating whether the node is performing an add/drop function and whether a multiplexer exists;

icons indicating administrative state;

icons representing alarm states;

icons representing regeneration or pass through by a node; and

icons representing error conditions.

20. (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein lines in the cells are used to represent circuits, and line with a first visual format represents a non-provisioned circuit, and a line with a second visual format represents a provisioned circuit.

21. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 20, wherein a color of a line used to indicate the status of the circuit, and wherein the line is colored a first color to indicate a critical problem, a second color to indicate a major problem, a third color to indicate a minor problem, and a fourth color to indicate no alarm conditions.

22. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the graphical image of the channel map is a window having a first column, a second column, and a plurality of additional columns, the first column providing labels for the bands and channels on a first direction to/from a node, the second column provides labels for the bands and channels on a second direction to/from a second node, and the plurality of additional columns is positioned between the first and second columns and depicts channel and band allocation information.

23. (Original): The method of claim 22, wherein each of the additional columns has a plurality of cells with left and right portions for displaying west and east side information for the node and lines in the cells correspond to connections made by the node, and wherein rows in the first and

second columns are labeled with a unique channel identifier that includes a row and channel designation.

24-32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein at least one channel of the plurality of channels is an optical signaling channel carrying administrative information.

34. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the optical signaling channel is carried on a wavelength channel out-of-band from payload wavelength channels.

35. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the optical signaling channel occupies one or more divisions of a time-division multiplexed signal.

36. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the optical signaling channel is modulated onto payload signals.